

Unrepairable Love / I married a man

Unrepairable Love

Chapter 231

Esme was about to pull out her phone when she saw Elizabeth's phone already displaying the news. She grabbed Elizabeth's phone and pointed at the screen. "Did you do this? Elizabeth, you're so awful! How long has it been since the saffron incident? Why bring it up again? Is it because Alexander divorcing you that you're taking it out on the Russell family?"

Elizabeth glanced at Esme, realizing why she was so mad. Esme thought Elizabeth leaked the news. Elizabeth stood up, and Esme tried to push her again. Elizabeth swatted Esme's hand away, making Esme stumble back a few steps.

Este frowned and glared at Elizabeth. Elizabeth calmly adjusted her clothes, smoothed her hair, and looked at Esme. "It wasn't me."

"Stop pretending! Elizabeth, you always act so superior, but you're the most despicable and shameless!" Esme pointed at Elizabeth, her eyes red with anger.

The fake saffron incident had made the Russell family a public target. The real issue wasn't just the family's image but the turmoil in the Russell Group's stock!

"I said it wasn't me. Esme, stop going crazy in my room!" Elizabeth was losing her patience. "Get out of here!"

"Elizabeth, I want you to hold a press conference right now and admit you spread this news. Apologize to the Russell family!" Esme grabbed Elizabeth's arm, her face full of hatred.

Esme wanted to ruin Elizabeth's reputation and make her leave Alexander for good!

“First, I didn’t do it. Second, even if I did, everything online is true. Why should I apologize for the truth?” Elizabeth pushed Esme away, finding her more annoying by the second.

Elizabeth thought, *Isn’t Esme supposed to faint at the slightest touch? Why does she seem so healthy here?*

Elizabeth, you dare not admit what you’ve done! Esme gritted her teeth.

Elizabeth threw her hospital gown onto the bed. She glanced at Esme, her voice cold, “And what about you?”

“Is Russell, do you dare to admit what you’ve done?” Elizabeth squinted, stepping closer to Esme. “You... impersonated me to get into medical school. Mr. Russell, do you dare to tell the whole world...”

Esme’s face froze, her jaw hardening, frowning. “Elizabeth...”

“And, Mrs. Russell, you claimed to be seriously ill and saw ghosts the day before yesterday.” Elizabeth couldn’t help but laugh.

Esme watched as Elizabeth’s smile turned into a cold smirk.

Chapter 231

“Do you dare to admit you secretly hired someone to kidnap me and *try* to drown me?” Elizabeth grabbed Esme’s collar, her voice chilling like a demon from hell.

Esme’s eyes instantly filled with fear. She thought, *How does Elizabeth know I hired someone to kidnap her?*

“Esme. I’m not easy to bully. Don’t mistake my patience for weakness, okay?” Elizabeth lightly patted Esme’s cheek with the back of her hand.

Esme choked, her hands clenched into fists at her sides.

Elizabeth smirked, picked up a shirt, and put it on. She was ready to be discharged.

Before leaving, she told Esme, “If you want to drag me to hell, I won’t let you live alone.”

With that, Elizabeth left. Elizabeth needed to report to Amanda in the cardiology department; she had taken too many leaves this month.

Esme stood there, watching Elizabeth walk away. She raised her hand to touch the cheek Elizabeth had patted, a glint of danger and hatred flashing in her eyes.

“Elizabeth! We’re not done yet. Where do you think you’re going?” She chased after Elizabeth.

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Chapter 232

Elizabeth walked into the office and immediately heard Laura griping. “The Russell family really messed up this time. They bragged about giving saffron to the media but ended up with fake stuff!”

Another doctor chimed in. “Yeah, classic case of asking for trouble.”

“Rey!” Laura called out to Elizabeth. “Feeling better? Been discharged?”

“Dr. Percy!”

Elizabeth nodded.

Laura approached, eyes wide. “Dr. Percy, how did you get the saffron?”

Elizabeth hesitated, thinking. *Should I say I’m Glory M from Base M, where I can get anything?*

Before she could respond, another doctor laughed and nudged Laura. “Did you forget? The Percy family is full of doctors. They can get any herb they want. It’s just saffron!”

Elizabeth paused and nodded. “Yes, it’s my grandmother’s. I can’t get saffron myself.”

“So it’s Mrs. Percy’s!” Laura laughed. “It’s Mrs. Lily Tudor’s birthday. As the granddaughter-in-law, you have to give something.”

Just then, the office door opened again. Seeing Esme, Laura smirked. “Unlike some people who tried to impress Mrs. Tudor but ended up giving fake stuff. Now the whole internet knows!”

Esme, already furious, clenched her fists and glared at Elizabeth.

Elizabeth stayed silent, her expression complicated.

Esme’s follower stood up and shouted, “Laura, stop talking nonsense so early in the morning!”

“Really, Esme’s lapdog. Your master wants to marry Mr. Tudor, but I don’t see it happening,” Laura mocked.

Lime walked over, pushed Laura’s shoulder, and slapped her.

Chaos erupted.

Isme thought, *I’ve suffered enough because of Elizabeth. I’m not taking it from Laura too. I’m from the Russell family, pampered since childhood. Who is Laura to belittle me?*

“Did I hit a sore spot?” Laura cursed.

Esme grew angrier. “Damn, I’m not the third party; it’s Elizabeth who took Alexander away. If anyone’s the third party, it’s Elizabeth! Bitch! Offend me, and you’ll regret it!” Esme grabbed Laura’s collar and slapped her again.

“Esme!” Elizabeth frowned and grabbed Esme’s arm.

They locked eyes, Elizabeth’s brows furrowed. If Esme has a problem, she should take it out on me, not Laura.

“If you have an issue, take it up with me. Don’t involve innocent people,” Elizabeth said.

“Innocent?” Esme sneered, shaking off Elizabeth and grabbing Laura’s hair. “How innocent can a foul-mouthed person like her be?”

Laura quickly got entangled with Esme!

“Ms. Carter will be here soon. Stop fighting!” Sunny ran in to break it up.

Elizabeth tried to pull Laura away but found they were too entangled to separate.

Esme started off aggressive, but within moments, Laura had her pinned down. Laura was heavy-handed, almost pressing Esme onto the table as she hit her.

Unwilling to give in, Esme yanked out several strands of Laura's hair. As Elizabeth was protecting Laura, Esme scratched her hand.

Seeing Elizabeth protecting Laura, and thinking about how Alexander had been with her at the hospital these past few nights, and how she had framed the Russell family, Esme got even angrier. She raised her hand to hit Elizabeth, venting her frustration.

"Despicable bitch!" She kept clawing at Elizabeth.

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Chapter 233

Elizabeth grabbed Esme's arm and shoved her back. Scowling, Elizabeth yelled, "Are you done yet?" The room went silent. Esme fell to the ground, her face red, two buttons popping off her shirt. Tears streamed down her face as she looked up at Elizabeth. "Elizabeth, did you just hit me?"

"So what if I did? You deserve it, acting like a lunatic!" Elizabeth's voice was icy.

Esme pointed at Elizabeth, gasping and crying. She pulled out her phone and called Alexander, sobbing, "Alexander, Elizabeth hit me. Come quick!"

"Esme!" Laura shouted, "Why drag Dr. Percy into this?"

Esme knelt, glaring at Elizabeth with hatred. Laura's concerns meant nothing; it was Elizabeth she despised.

At the nurses' station, Sunny treated Esme's scratches, glancing nervously at Alexander. Alexander, in a black suit with a crooked tie, looked worried. He was exceptionally handsome, with a defined jawline and thick eyelashes. The tension was high. Sunny, close to Alexander for the first time, barely dared to breathe.

“Alexander, it hurts,” Esme clutched his arm.

“Be gentle,” Alexander told Sunny, his tone stern.

Sunny nodded, already being as gentle as possible, sweat dripping from her forehead. She dared not hurt Esme. Alexander glanced at Elizabeth, who was tending to her own scratches.

Elizabeth sensed someone watching her and raised her head, but no one was paying her any attention. Instead, she saw Alexander’s concerned look directed at Esme. Her heart tightened. She remembered him carrying her to the ER after she’d been injured by broken glass. His gentleness then paled in comparison to his care for Esme now.

She thought about him leaving her at the hospital last night after their conversation about Esme. It felt ridiculous. Didn't he know she was terrified of thunderstorms?

Alexander’s deep voice broke the silence. “Why did this start?”

Laine, looking up at Alexander with red eyes, said, “They mocked me for giving Mrs. Tudor fake saffron.” She continued, “Alexander, I didn’t mean to...”

“I know,” Alexander replied, believing Esme.

“But Elizabeth,” Esme cried, “Lime turned the fake saffron issue into a media frenzy. She mocked me in the office and hit me.” Hugging Alexander’s waist, she sobbed, “Why does Elizabeth treat me like this? I didn’t mean to give fake saffron. My parents never hit me. Alexander, it really hurts.”

Chapter 234

Alexander shot Elizabeth an angry look.

Elizabeth ignored his glare, focusing on Esme, thinking her a hypocrite. “What did I do to you?” Elizabeth demanded. She thought, *Wasn't I the one who tried to break up the fight and got hurt?*

Perhaps her tone was harsh. Esme trembled and snuggled into Alexander’s arms, looking pitiful.

Alexander frowned, gently stroking Esme's back. "Elizabeth, Esme didn't mean to send the fake saffron; she was tricked. I know you sent the real one, but there's no need to be so aggressive."

"How am I being aggressive?" Elizabeth asked, confused.

"Right now!" he replied coldly. *Look at her*, he thought, *demanding answers and not letting it go—isn't that aggressive?*

Elizabeth was speechless.

"Esme is already hurt because of you. What more do you want?" he questioned, disappointment in his eyes. "Don't you know Esme is very weak? She can't even fight."

Sunny held a bottle of iodine, about to say Esme hadn't been beaten by Elizabeth, but Esme glared at her to keep quiet.

Elizabeth stared at Alexander, feeling helpless. *Weak? Esme could take on both of us, and she's weak? When it comes to Esme, he loses all reason. She's always his first choice.*

Reflecting on his recent kindness, Elizabeth found it ironic. She thought she'd been perceived as less malicious. Now, it seemed, it was merely charity. Alexander had offered false kindness to Elizabeth, a villain who always challenged his beloved woman!

"I am dissatisfied that I didn't take the chance to slap her or kick her a few more times!" Elizabeth shouted, her voice choked with anger. *What a great opportunity I missed. What a pity!*

Alexander's eyes darkened, his anger rising. *I don't want things to get this bad with Elizabeth. Why does she have to be at odds with Esme? Hurting Esme will only erode the little warmth I have left for her!*

"Elizabeth, you have disappointed me greatly." Alexander's voice was low, his eyes sullen.

Elizabeth choked back a sob, then laughed. *That statement was ridiculously arrogant*, she thought.

Alexander saw her smile, feeling provoked. *She doesn't ever think she's wrong for hitting Esme at all! She's too arrogant!*

“As for the saffron issue, I’ll get to the bottom of it.” Alexander gave her a cold look, then picked up Esme and walked out.

As they passed Elizabeth, Alexander’s shoulder bumped into her, causing her to stagger back. When she looked up, she saw a triumphant look in Esme’s eyes, as if to say, “Elizabeth, you can’t beat me.”

The atmosphere was particularly gloomy.

Sunny felt like she could hardly breathe. She thought, *Things are really going sideways*. Last night, Alexander was worried about Elizabeth and came over in the middle of the night. But today, when it involves Esme, he immediately blames Elizabeth without even asking what happened.

Elizabeth slumped into a chair, sighing.

"Dr. Percy," Sunny called out.

Elizabeth looked up. "Are you okay?" Sunny asked, concerned.

Elizabeth pursed her lips. "What could be wrong with me?" She was used to being misunderstood and had stopped caring.

Laura arrived late and called out, "Dr. Percy."

Elizabeth glanced at her. "Did they leave?"

"Yes. How are you?" Elizabeth asked.

Laura looked rough, with scratches on her face and bruises on her wrist. Her hair was a mess. Elizabeth thought Alexander should see how fierce Esme could be in a fight.

"I'm sorry, Dr. Percy," Laura apologized.

"It's nothing," Elizabeth waved it off. Elizabeth walked out of the nurse's station, sighing. She pushed her feelings aside and focused on work.

Meanwhile, online criticism of Esme kept growing. Elizabeth worked until lunch. At the cafeteria, she heard a news report on TV: "Regarding the fake saffron issue, Mr. Tudor held a press conference."

Elizabeth froze. A press conference? The camera showed Alexander and Esme on stage.

For such a big event, it should be Alexander alone or with Elizabeth. What did it mean for him to bring Esme?

Alexander spoke confidently, "Saltion prices are high, so it's not surprising some sell fakes. Mrs. Russell bought a fake one out of kindness, wanting to give my grandmother saltion for her health. She's also a victim. The authenticity isn't important; her intention is. I hope everyone stops escalating this and gives the Russell and Tor families some peace. Thank you."

He seemed to de-escalate the situation but was really protecting Esme. Heaven said the authenticity didn't matter. Even if Elizabeth had given Lily the real one, it wouldn't compare to Esme's actions in his eyes.

Elizabeth smiled bitterly. Alexander really didn't want Esme to suffer.

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She lost her appetite.

Just as she was about to leave, a woman's voice came from the TV: "Mr. Tudor, you seem to be defending Ms. Russell. What's your relationship with her now?"

Other reporters chimed in. "There are reports of you and Ms. Percy at the courthouse applying for a divorce. Are you divorcing Ms. Percy for Ms. Russell?"

The camera panned back to Alexander. He leaned forward, hands on the table. His expression grew complex. He slowly said, "Elizabeth and I..."

Chapter 236

Esme suddenly grabbed Alexander's hand, hoping he'd announce their divorce to the reporters. The reporters noticed and zoomed in with their cameras. Elizabeth thought she was over it, but seeing them together still made her mad. Aren't they supposed to avoid being seen together? This is a nationwide broadcast. Dad and the others will be furious.

"Elizabeth and I are indeed..." Alexander started, but was interrupted by a commotion outside. "Who's coming?" everyone wondered.

Lily walked in with bodyguards, looking serious in a black velvet suit. She stopped and stared at Alexander. Alexander was puzzled. ‘Why is Lily here?’

Lily then looked at Esme, who nervously hid behind Alexander. Esme was still scared of Lily. Lily glared at Esme and said coldly, “Alexander, is this press conference for Ms. Russell?” Reporters sensed drama and started snapping photos.

Esme tried to speak, “Mrs. Tudor, I...” “Shut up!” Lily cut her off, full of authority. Esme turned pale. Lily was ruthless, giving her no respect.

Lily mocked, “For those who know, this is a press conference; to the uninitiated, it looks like you’re announcing your wedding! Why is she on stage with you? Get down!”

Everyone was shocked. Lily was kicking Esme out! Esme was stunned. ‘With all these reporters, isn’t Lily humiliating me? I’m the daughter of the Russell family!’

“Grandma, stop causing trouble. We’re handling serious matters!” Alexander said, his voice deepening. Lily ignored him and went up on stage. Her assistant pointed to the audience. “Ms. Russell, please,”

Esme felt stuck and looked at Alexander. Alexander frowned but eventually nodded, signaling her to step down. Esme, seeing the reporters’ anticipation, had no choice but to leave the stage.

Lily, now on stage, looked at Alexander. “At a press conference, you should be alone or with your wife. It’s inappropriate to appear with another woman!” Alexander’s expression was complex.

Lily, exuding authority, ordered, “Alexander, apologize to your wife, Elizabeth!”

Everyone below exchanged glances. It was clear Lily was protecting Elizabeth. Alexander was annoyed. “Grandma, today’s press conference is because the Russell family sent fake saffron. The Tudor and Russell families just formed a partnership. What’s wrong with me speaking for the Russell family?”

“And what did Elizabeth do wrong? Why should she be discussed here?” Lily slapped the table, eyes full of anger. Alexander was speechless.

Lily snorted and snapped, “You’ve lost your mind!”

Alexander frowned, clearly angry too. “Grandma, can you stop meddling in our business?”

“When it comes to the Tudor family’s reputation, I have to step in!” Lily shot back.

They were at a standstill on stage. Lily’s stance left Alexander deeply frustrated.

Lily turned to the audience and said, “Thanks for your concern about Alexander and Elizabeth. Let me clarify: they are not divorced. Regarding Alexander and Ms. Russell, let me be clear: Alexander’s concern for Esme is purely brotherly, nothing romantic.” She glanced at Esme in the crowd.

Esme bit her lip, fists clenched. ‘Brotherly concern? What does Lily mean?’

“Ms. Russell, if you like being Alexander’s sister so much, why not become the godchild of the Tudor family?” This shut down Esme’s hopes of marrying into the Tudor family.

The audience erupted.

Alexander’s face darkened. “Grandma!” he called out.

Lily glared at him. “What are you yelling for? Come home with me!”

Esme seethed, thinking, ‘Godchild? That means I can never be with Alexander!’

“Mrs. Tudor, does that mean Ms. Percy and Mr. Tudor aren’t having marital issues?” a reporter asked.

Lily replied coldly, “I don’t meddle in the young people’s affairs, so I can’t say. But...” she paused, looking at the reporters.

Everyone waited for her next words.

Alexander grabbed a microphone from a reporter, blocking Lily from saying more. “This press conference is over. Please stop over-reporting on the saffron issue.”

He then led Lily out.

“Idiot, slow down!” Lily scolded.

Alexander didn’t dare slow down. If he did, Lily would start talking nonsense to the media!

“Afraid of me now? Then stop being so close with Esme!” Lily shouted.

Alexander’s face was grim as he left the hotel and got into the car.

In the car, the mood was tense. Alexander leaned back, pinching the bridge of his nose, feeling a headache.

“Grandma, you showing up like this embarrasses both the Tudor and Russell families,” Alexander said hoarsely.

Lily was serious. “You and Elizabeth aren’t divorced, and you bring me to a press conference? What are you thinking? Even if you don’t care about Elizabeth, what about the Percy family?” she asked.

Alexander was worried about embarrassing the Tudor and Russell families but forgot about the Percy family.

“I’ll handle the saffron issue. But Alexander, you can’t see Esme anymore!” Lily insisted.

Alexander looked at her as she got out of the car.

Lily turned back and said, “If you keep seeing Esme, don’t blame me for making sure you never see her again!”

Alexander clenched his fists. “Grandma!”

“You know what I can do!” Lily warned.

Alexander’s face was grim.

Chapter 238

At the reception, Alexander was pulled away by Lily, leaving Esme stranded. Reporters swarmed Esme, bombarding her with questions, and she couldn’t escape.

“Ms. Russell! What’s your take on Mrs. Tudor’s comments?”

“Ms. Russell, are you secretly dating Mr. Tudor?”

“Ms. Russell, why did you look so pale when Mrs. Tudor mentioned you becoming the Tudor family’s godchild?”

“Ms. Russell, is it true Mr. Tudor and Ms. Percy are divorcing because of you?”

“Ms. Russell, please answer our questions!”

Microphones were shoved in her face, and Esme, overwhelmed, was on the verge of tears.

Thinking about Lily wanting her as a Tudor godchild, she found it ironic. Who wants to be a godchild? I just want to be Alexander’s wife! she thought.

Just when she felt trapped, the reporters were suddenly pushed aside, and a man’s voice shouted, “Move aside!”

Esme’s eyes lit up. “Henry!”

Henry arrived with bodyguards, shielding Esme. Allen was with him. Esme, teary-eyed, rushed to Allen, crying, “Mom!”

Allen glared at the crowd. “Why are you surrounding Esme? Can’t you see she doesn’t want to be interviewed?”

Henry looked at Esme with concern.

‘Mrs. Russell! What does the Russell family have to say about the fake saffron?’

“Mr. Russell, did you know Ms. Russell gave Mrs. Tudor fake saffron?”

Amidst the questions, a man’s voice cut through, “Mrs. Russell! Did you know Ms. Russell is a mistress?”

Everyone’s attention snapped to him. Even the other reporters thought he was bold!

“If you can’t speak properly, shut your filthy mouth! Esme is a mistress? Do you have any proof?” Allen snapped, furious.

Henry sighed, “Mom, take Esme away. I’ll handle this.”

Esme glared at the male reporter, thinking, *Mistress!* I hate that word! I’m not a mistress! Alexander and Elizabeth have no feelings for each other; their marriage is just a formality. So I’m not a mistress!

Allen took Esme away.

In the car, Esme sobbed, “Mom, I’m not a mistress.”

Chapter 238

“Of course, you’re not. If it weren’t for Elizabeth, you would have married Alexander!” Allen comforted her, full of sympathy.

Allen thought, *Esme and Alexander are perfect together!* It’s all Elizabeth’s fault!

Esme, feeling wronged, grabbed Allen’s arm, “Mom, can you help me?”

Seeing Esme’s pitiful eyes, Allen’s heart ached. She thought, ‘If only Esme were my biological daughter, Nancy. Who knows where Nancy is now or how she’s doing? Even though Esme isn’t my biological daughter, as long as Nancy doesn’t return, I’ll protect Esme! I hope Nancy is treated well!’

“Esme, I’ll help you no matter what.” Allen tucked a stray lock of hair behind Esme’s ear, her eyes sincere.

That night, Joseph dropped Elizabeth home. The Percy family was busy cleaning. Seeing Elizabeth, everyone was happy.

“What are you doing?” Elizabeth asked Rose, who was cleaning the upstairs balcony windows. “Mom, you never do housework.”

“Cleaning out the filth!” Rose replied. “Once it’s clean, only good things will happen to our family.”

Chapter 239

Elizabeth figured Rose must have seen Alexander taking Esme to the press conference. She felt bad for dragging the Percy family into this mess. Alexander really crossed the line this time, totally ignoring the Percy family. Elizabeth pursed her lips and glanced at Rose, who was cleaning and

muttering, “Why won’t it come clean?” Elizabeth knew there was more to Rose’s words.

Rose waved her hand. “Go wash up. We’re having dinner together. Charles is back today, too.”

Elizabeth blinked. Charles is back?

She went inside and saw Charles playing chess with Declan. They seemed to be having a blast.

“Uncle!” Elizabeth called out.

Charles looked up. “Elizabeth, come over here!”

“Uncle, when I was in the hospital, you didn’t even visit! I’m mad at you!” Elizabeth complained, but still sat next to him.

Declan smiled. Elizabeth was always close to Charles! Once she saw Charles, she ignored Declan!

“Didn’t I hear you were discharged and brought barbecue right away?” Charles tapped her head.

Elizabeth blinked. “We’re having barbecue tonight?”

“Yep, just waiting for you. Dinner’s about to start!” Charles laughed.

Elizabeth nodded. “Alright, Uncle, you do care about me.”

Charles said, “When have I ever not cared about you?”

Elizabeth washed her hands, grabbed an apple, and sat down. “Lila mentioned an entertainment industry party in Lisbon soon. Are you going?”

“Yeah, you coming?” Charles asked, still playing chess.

“Is it fun?” Elizabeth asked, munching on the apple.

“Lots of handsome guys,” Charles grinned.

Elizabeth was about to decline.

“Give her an invite. Let her have some fun!” Declan suggested.

Charles snapped his fingers. “Exactly what I was thinking.”

Chapter 239

“A boring power party, what’s the point?” Elizabeth got up to check the barbecue.

Charles said, “For us, it’s a power party. For newcomers, it’s a chance to network and get good resources. More connections, fewer enemies, right?”

Elizabeth couldn’t argue with that.

“You’re right.” She nodded and went to check the barbecue.

Charles laughed. “Elizabeth’s always been carefree! Declan, she’s nothing like you.”

“If she’s not like me, who is she like? She’s my daughter!” Declan snorted.

Charles chuckled, “Yes, your biological daughter!” He emphasized “biological daughter,” clearly amused.

Declan coughed, looking annoyed. He leaned closer to Charles. “Don’t joke about this at home. We don’t want Elizabeth to know!”

“Got it.” Charles placed the last chess piece and changed the subject. “I lost. I’m going to find Elizabeth!” He headed to the limack yard.

Declan watched him, uneasy. If this ever gets out, it’ll be Charles who spills the beans! How did he find out back then?!

Chapter 240

Elizabeth was having dinner when she received a call from Lily. “Hey, Elizabeth, there’s a party tomorrow night. Wanna come?” Lily’s gentle tone made it hard to refuse.

Declan noticed Elizabeth on the phone and asked, “Who’s that?”

Elizabeth glanced at Declan and said, “Grandma. I have plans tomorrow, so I can’t make it.”

There was a brief silence before Lily sighed, "Never mind."

Elizabeth softly replied, "Grandma, I really have something at the hospital. Give me the details, and if I finish early, I'll come by, okay?"

"No need, just focus on your work!" Lily hung up.

Elizabeth stared at her phone for a while and sighed. She thought, *Lily needs to accept that I'm no longer part of the Tudor family.*

Back at the table, Charles cut a piece of meat for her. "Mrs. Tudor called again?"

Elizabeth nodded, and Charles sighed, "The Tudors have treated Elizabeth well, despite Alexander."

Declan snorted, "That's because Elizabeth's been good to them. No one is kind without a reason."

Elizabeth ate quietly, her heart sinking.

Charles put down his wine glass. "Speaking of social events, there's a big party tomorrow afternoon with a lot of wealthy folks."

Elizabeth looked up at Charles.

"I heard about it too. It's hosted by Melissa Wallace from the Red Cross. Her parties are always grand," Declan added, sipping his wine.

Elizabeth wondered if it was the same party Lily mentioned. *Lily, being so proud, would definitely attend such a grand event.*

Lily was great in many ways, but her pride was overwhelming. She couldn't stand public embarrassment. Elizabeth recalled someone once criticizing the Tudor family in front of Lily, which made her furious. Lily could criticize her family, but outsiders couldn't.

"Are you guys going?" Elizabeth asked Declan.

Declan and Charles exchanged a look and laughed. Declan said, "Were you daydreaming?"

"No," Elizabeth replied, continuing to eat.

"We're not going. The invites are for women only." Declan tapped her head, thinking she was so distracted.

Elizabeth paused, feeling a bit lost.

"Mom, are you going?" she asked Rose, who was walking over.

Rose shook her head. "I'm busy. Why don't you go instead?"

"I'm not going. I hate crowded places," Elizabeth sighed, thinking everyone would talk about her.

Rose chuckled and ruffled her hair. "You'll have plenty of social events in the future. Get used to it!"

Melissa's party was on the 33rd floor of the Summit of Prosperity. Media gathered at the hotel entrance, eager for news. Famous women walked the red carpet. A black Rolls-Royce pulled up, and someone announced, "Mrs. Tudor is here!"

Lily stepped out in a dark green dress, pearl necklace, and simple handbag. Her calm gaze swept the surroundings. The crowd gasped in amazement.